

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
27 September 2007 (27.09.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/108754 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07D 235/08 (2006.01) **A61P 25/22** (2006.01)
A61K 31/4184 (2006.01) **A61P 25/28** (2006.01)
A61P 1/00 (2006.01) **A61P 35/00** (2006.01)
A61P 25/00 (2006.01) **A61P 9/00** (2006.01)
A61P 25/16 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/SE2007/000281

(22) International Filing Date: 22 March 2007 (22.03.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/785,326 23 March 2006 (23.03.2006) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CRYSTALLINE FORMS OF N- {2-TERT -BUTYL -1- [(4,4- DIF LUOROCYCLOHEXYL) METHYL] -1H-BENZ-IMIDAZOL-5- YL}ETHANESULFONAMIDE SALTS

(57) Abstract: A salt of the compound *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide, which is an ethanesulphonic acid salt, a sulphuric acid salt, an ethane disulphonic acid salt, a hydrochloric acid salt, a hydrobromic acid salt, a phosphoric acid salt, an acetic acid salt, a fumaric acid salt, a maleic acid salt, a tartaric acid salt, a citric acid salt, a methanesulphonic acid salt, or a p-toluenesulphonic acid salt of said compound.

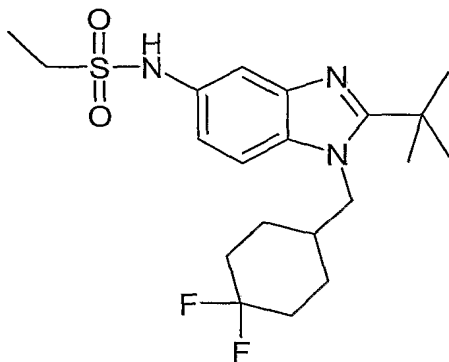


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Crystalline forms of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide salts

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 The present invention relates to novel salts of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide, which compound has the following formula:



- 10 This compound is useful as a CB₁ receptor ligand, and may be useful in treating pain and/or other related symptoms or diseases. The invention also concerns pharmaceutical compositions which include the salts, as well as processes for the manufacture of the salts. The invention further concerns methods of treating medical conditions in which CB₁ receptors are implicated using the salts, for example pain, anxiety disorders, cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, gastrointestinal disorders and cardiovascular disorders, and the use of the salts in the manufacture of a me-
15 dicament.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- 20 In the formulation of drug compositions, it is important for the drug substance to be in a form in which it can be conveniently handled and processed. This is of importance, not only from the point of view of obtaining a commercially-viable manufacturing process, but also from the point of view of subsequent manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations comprising the active compound.

Further, in the manufacture of drug compositions, it is important that a reliable, reproducible and constant plasma concentration profile of drug is provided following administration to a patient.

5 Chemical stability, solid state stability, and "shelf life" of the active ingredients are also very important factors. The drug substance, and compositions containing it, should preferably be capable of being effectively stored over appreciable periods of time, without exhibiting a significant change in the active component's physico-chemical characteristics (e.g. its chemical composition, density, hygroscopicity and solubility).

10 Moreover, it is also important to be able to provide drug in a form which is as chemically pure as possible.

The skilled person will appreciate that, typically, if a drug can be readily obtained in a stable form, such as a stable crystalline form, advantages may be provided, in terms of ease of handling, ease of preparation of suitable pharmaceutical formulations, and a more reliable solubility profile.

20 WO 2005/030732 discloses a generic formula the scope of which encompasses *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide.

A process for the synthesis of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide is described in Example 14 in WO 2006/033631.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides specific salts of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide.

30 More specifically, the present invention relates to a salt of the compound *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide, which is an ethanesulphonic acid salt, a sulphuric acid salt, an ethane disulphonic acid salt, a hydrochloric acid salt, a hydrobromic acid salt, a phosphoric acid salt, an acetic acid salt, a fu-

maric acid salt, a maleic acid salt, a tartaric acid salt, a citric acid salt, a methanesulphonic acid salt, or a p-toluenesulphonic acid salt of said compound.

In one embodiment of the invention the salt is an ethane sulphonic acid salt, a sulphuric acid salt, or an ethane disulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide.

One embodiment of the invention relates to an ethane sulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at d-values at 14.0, 7.0, 4.99, and 4.62 Å, and/or essentially as defined in Table 1 and/or essentially as defined in Figure 1.

Another embodiment of the invention relates to a sulphuric acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at d-values at 11.7, 11.3, 5.8, 5.6, 5.6, and 5.4 Å, and/or essentially as defined in Table 2 and/or essentially as defined in Figure 2.

A further embodiment of the invention relates to an ethane disulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern essentially as defined in Figure 3.

A yet further embodiment of the invention relates to a maleic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern essentially as defined in Figure 4.

The X-ray powder diffraction spectra for typical samples of the salts of the present invention are shown in the Figures hereinafter. It will be understood that the values of the X-ray powder diffraction pattern may vary slightly from one machine to another or from one sample to another, and so the values quoted are not to be construed as absolute.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a salt of the invention in substantially crystalline form.

Although we have found that it is possible to produce salts of the invention in forms which are greater than 80% crystalline, by "substantially crystalline" we include greater than 20%, preferably greater than 30%, and more preferably greater than 40% (e.g. greater than any of 50, 60, 70, 80 or 90%) crystalline.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is also provided a salt of the invention in partially crystalline form. By "partially crystalline" we include 5% or between 5% and 20% crystalline.

The degree (%) of crystallinity may be determined by the skilled person using X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD). Other techniques, such as solid state NMR, FT-IR, Raman spectroscopy, differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and microcalorimetry, may also be used.

The term "stability" as defined herein includes chemical stability and solid state stability.

By "chemical stability", we include that it may be possible to store salts of the invention in an isolated form, or in the form of a formulation in which it is provided in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents or adjuvants (e.g. in an oral dosage form, such as a tablet, capsule etc.), under normal storage conditions, with an insignificant degree of chemical degradation or decomposition.

By "solid state stability", we include that it may be possible to store salts of the invention in an isolated solid form, or in the form of a solid formulation in which it is provided in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents or adjuvants (e.g. in an oral dosage form, such as a tablet, capsule etc.), under normal storage conditions, with an insignificant degree of solid state transformation (e.g. crystallisation, recrystallisation, solid state phase transition, hydration, dehydration, solvatisation or desolvatisation).

Examples of "normal storage conditions" include temperatures of between minus 80 and plus 50°C (preferably between 0 and 40°C and more preferably room temperatures, such as 15 to 30°C), pressures of between 0.1 and 2 bars (preferably at atmospheric pressure), relative humidities of between 5 and 95% (preferably 10 to 60%), and/or exposure to 460

lux of UV/visible light, for prolonged periods (i.e. greater than or equal to six months). Under such conditions, salts of the invention may be found to be less than 15%, more preferably less than 10%, and especially less than 5%, chemically degraded/decomposed, or solid state transformed, as appropriate. The skilled person will appreciate that the above-mentioned upper and lower limits for temperature, pressure and relative humidity represent extremes of normal storage conditions, and that certain combinations of these extremes will not be experienced during normal storage (e.g. a temperature of 50°C and a pressure of 0.1 bar).

A further aspect of the present invention comprises processes for the preparation of the salts. The precise conditions under which the salts are formed may be empirically determined. The salts may be obtained by crystallisation under controlled conditions.

One embodiment of the invention relates to a process for the preparation of a salt according to the present invention, which process comprises addition of the appropriate acid to a solution or slurry of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide in suitable solvent or liquid.

In one embodiment of the inventive process the appropriate acid is added to *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide dissolved in a solvent selected from the group: acetates, lower alkyl alcohols, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, dialkyl ethers, dialkyl ketones, acetonitrile, chlorinated alkanes, aqueous solvents, or mixtures thereof.

In a further embodiment of the inventive process the solvent is selected from the group: C₁₋₆-alkyl acetates, linear or branched C₁₋₆-alkyl alcohols, C₆₋₁₂-aliphatic hydrocarbons, C₆₋₁₀-aromatic hydrocarbons, di-C₁₋₆-alkyl ethers, di-C₁₋₆-alkyl ketones, chlorinated methanes or ethanes, acetonitrile, water, or mixtures thereof.

In a yet further embodiment of the inventive process the solvent is selected from the group: ethyl acetate, *iso*-propyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, *iso*-propanol, *n*-heptane, diethyl ether, acetone, dichloromethane, water, or mixtures thereof.

In a further embodiment of the inventive process the solvent is selected from the group: ethyl acetate, methyl *iso*-butyl ketone, and *iso*-propyl acetate.

5 In another embodiment of the inventive process the appropriate acid is added to *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide slurried in a liquid selected from the group: acetates, lower alkyl alcohols, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, dialkyl ethers, dialkyl ketones, acetonitrile, chlorinated alkanes, aqueous liquids, or mixtures thereof.

10 In a further embodiment of the inventive process the liquid is selected from the group: C₁₋₆ alkyl acetates, linear or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl alcohols, C₆₋₁₂ aliphatic hydrocarbons, C₆₋₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbons, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl ethers, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl ketones, chlorinated methanes or ethanes, acetonitrile, water, or mixtures thereof.

15 In a yet further embodiment of the inventive process the liquid is selected from the group: ethyl acetate, *iso*-propyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, *iso*-propanol, *n*-heptane, diethyl ether, acetone, dichloromethane, water, or mixtures thereof.

In a further embodiment of the inventive process the liquid is methyl *tert*-butyl ether.

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Crystallisation temperatures and crystallisation times depend upon the salt that is to be crystallised, the concentration of that salt in solution, and the solvent system which is used.

25 Crystallisation may also be initiated and/or effected by way of standard techniques, for example with or without seeding with crystals of the appropriate crystalline salt of the invention.

30 One embodiment of the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation including a salt according to the present invention in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Another embodiment of the invention relates to a salt according to the present invention for use as a medicament.

5 A yet further embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a salt according to the present invention in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain.

One embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a salt according to any the present invention in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of anxiety disorders.

10 Another embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a salt according to the present invention in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, gastrointestinal disorders and cardiovascular disorders.

15 A further embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a salt according to the present invention for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

20 A yet further embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a salt according to the present invention for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of functional gastrointestinal disorder (FGD).

25 One embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a salt according to the present invention for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of functional dyspepsia (FD).

Another embodiment of the invention relates to the use of a salt according to the present invention for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

A further embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a salt according to the present invention.

5 A yet further embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the treatment of pain, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to the present invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

10 One embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the treatment of anxiety disorders, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to the present invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

15 Another embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the treatment of cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, gastrointestinal disorders or cardiovascular disorders, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to the present invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

20 A further embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt a salt according to the present invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

25 A yet further embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the treatment of functional gastrointestinal disorder, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to the present invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

30 One embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the treatment of functional dyspepsia whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to the present invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

Another embodiment of the invention relates to a method for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to the present invention is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

5

Biological Evaluation

hCB₁ receptor binding

Human CB₁ receptor from Receptor Biology (hCB₁) are thawed at 37 °C, passed 3 times through a 25-gauge blunt-end needle, diluted in the cannabinoid binding buffer (50 mM Tris, 2.5 mM EDTA, 5 mM MgCl₂, and 0.5 mg/mL BSA fatty acid free, pH 7.4) and aliquots containing the appropriate amount of protein are distributed in 96-well plates. The IC₅₀ of the salts of the invention at hCB₁ are evaluated from 10-point dose-response curves done with ³H-CP55,940 at 20000 to 25000 dpm per well (0.17-0.21 nM) in a final volume of 300 µl. The total and non-specific binding are determined in the absence and presence of 0.2 µM of HU210 respectively. The plates are vortexed and incubated for 60 minutes at room temperature, filtered through Unifilters GF/B (presoaked in 0.1% polyethyleneimine) with the Tomtec or Packard harvester using 3 mL of wash buffer (50 mM Tris, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 mg BSA pH 7.0). The filters are dried for 1 hour at 55 °C. The radioactivity (cpm) is counted in a TopCount (Packard) after adding 65 µl/well of MS-20 scintillation liquid.

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hCB₁ GTPγS binding

Human CB₁ receptor from Receptor Biology (hCB₁) are thawed at 37 °C, passed 3 times through a 25-gauge blunt-end needle and diluted in the GTPγS binding buffer (50 mM Hepes, 20 mM NaOH, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 5 mM MgCl₂, pH 7.4, 0.1% BSA). The EC₅₀ and E_{max} of the compounds of the invention are evaluated from 10-point dose-response curves done in 300µl with the appropriate amount of membrane protein and 100000-130000 dpm of GTPγ³⁵S per well (0.11 –0.14 nM). The basal and maximal stimulated binding is determined in absence and presence of 10 µM (hCB₁) Win 55,212-2 respectively. The membranes are pre-incubated for 5 minutes with 112.5 µM (hCB₁) GDP prior to distribution in plates (30 µM (hCB₁) GDP final). The plates are vortexed and incubated for 60 minutes at room temperature, filtered on Unifilters GF/B (presoaked in wa-

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ter) with the Tomtec or Packard harvester using 3 ml of wash buffer (50 mM Tris, 5 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM NaCl, pH 7.0). The filters are dried for 1 hour at 55 °C. The radioactivity (cpm) is counted in a TopCount (Packard) after adding 65 µl/well of MS-20 scintillation liquid. Antagonist reversal studies are done in the same way except that (a) an agonist
5 dose-response curve is done in the presence of a constant concentration of antagonist, or (b) an antagonist dose-response curve is done in the presence of a constant concentration of agonist.

Based on the above assays, the dissociation constant (K_i) for a particular compound of the invention towards a particular receptor is determined using the following equation:

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$$K_i = IC_{50}/(1+[rad]/K_d),$$

Wherein IC₅₀ is the concentration of the compound of the invention at which 50% displacement has been observed; [rad] is a standard or reference radioactive ligand concentration at that moment; and K_d is the dissociation constant of the radioactive ligand towards the particular receptor.

15 Using the above-mentioned assays, the K_i towards human CB₁ receptors for certain substances of the invention are in the range of between 3 nM and 195 nM. EC₅₀ for these substances are in the range of between 2.3 nM and 300 nM. E_{max} for these substances are in the range of between 109 % and 144 %.

20 ***Screening for compounds active against TLESR (GERD)***

Adult Labrador retrievers of both genders, trained to stand in a Pavlov sling, are used. Mucosa-to-skin esophagostomies are formed and the dogs are allowed to recover completely before any experiments are done.

25 ***Motility measurement***

In brief, after fasting for approximately 17 h with free supply of water, a multilumen sleeve/sidehole assembly (Dentsleeve, Adelaide, South Australia) is introduced through the esophagostomy to measure gastric, lower esophageal sphincter (LES) and esophageal pressures. The assembly is perfused with water using a low-compliance manometric perfusion
30 pump (Dentsleeve, Adelaide, South Australia). An air-perfused tube is passed in the oral direction to measure swallows, and an antimony electrode monitored pH, 3 cm above the LES. All signals are amplified and acquired on a personal computer at 10 Hz.

When a baseline measurement free from fasting gastric/LES phase III motor activity has been obtained, placebo (0.9% NaCl) or test compound is administered intravenously (i.v., 0.5 ml/kg) in a foreleg vein. Ten min after i.v. administration, a nutrient meal (10% peptone, 5% D-glucose, 5% Intralipid, pH 3.0) is infused into the stomach through the central lumen of the assembly at 100 ml/min to a final volume of 30 ml/kg. The infusion of the nutrient meal is followed by air infusion at a rate of 500 ml/min until an intragastric pressure of 10 ± 1 mmHg is obtained. The pressure is then maintained at this level throughout the experiment using the infusion pump for further air infusion or for venting air from the stomach. The experimental time from start of nutrient infusion to end of air insufflation is 45 min. The procedure has been validated as a reliable means of triggering TLESRs.

TLESRs is defined as a decrease in lower esophageal sphincter pressure (with reference to intragastric pressure) at a rate of >1 mmHg/s. The relaxation should not be preceded by a pharyngeal signal ≤ 2 s before its onset in which case the relaxation is classified as swallow-induced. The pressure difference between the LES and the stomach should be less than 2 mmHg, and the duration of the complete relaxation longer than 1 s.

Screening for compounds active against IBS

In this study the effect of acute administration of a compound on the visceromotor response to isobaric colorectal distension in rats is investigated (Ritchie J. Pain from distension of the pelvic colon by inflating a balloon in the irritable bowel syndrome. *Gut* 1973; **6**: 105-112. Ness TJ, Gebhart GF. Colorectal distension as a noxious visceral stimulus: physiological and pharmacological characterization of pseudoeffective reflexes in the rat. *Brain Research* 1988; **450**: 153-169).

Methods

Colorectal distension (CRD) is performed in all rats (Sprague Dawley) using a paradigm of 12 consecutive distensions (or pulses) at 80 mmHg for 30 seconds each with 4.5 minute intervals (12x80 mmHg). The visceromotor response is determined by quantifying phasic changes in the balloon pressure, which is processed by specially designed computer software. The compound is dissolved in saline and administered at the doses of 1, 3 and 10

μmol/kg. The compound is given intravenously in a volume of 1 mL/kg between the third and fourth distension.

The invention will now be illustrated by the following non-limiting Example.

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Figure 1 shows an X-ray powder diffractogram for crystalline ethane sulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide.

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Figure 2 shows an X-ray powder diffractogram for crystalline sulphuric acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide.

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Figure 3 shows an X-ray powder diffractogram for crystalline ethane disulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}-ethane-sulfonamide.

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Figure 4 shows an X-ray powder diffractogram for crystalline maleic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide.

25

X-ray powder diffraction analysis (XRPD) was performed using variable slits on samples prepared according to standard methods, for example those described in Giacobazzo, C. *et al* (1995), *Fundamentals of Crystallography*, Oxford University Press; Jenkins, R. and Snyder, R. L. (1996), *Introduction to X-Ray Powder Diffractometry*, John Wiley & Sons, New York; Bunn, C. W. (1948), *Chemical Crystallography*, Clarendon Press, London; or Klug, H. P. & Alexander, L. E. (1974), *X-ray Diffraction Procedures*, John Wiley and Sons, New York. X-ray analyses were performed using a PANalytical X'Pert PRO MPD diffractometer.

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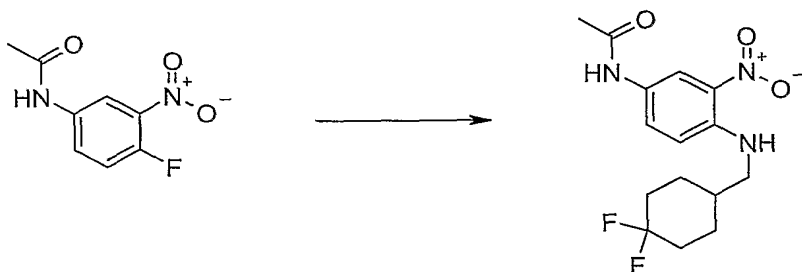
It will be appreciated by the skilled person that crystalline forms of compounds of the invention may be prepared by analogy with processes described herein and/or in accordance with the Examples below, and may show essentially the same XRPD diffraction patterns as those disclosed herein. By "essentially the same" XRPD diffraction patterns, we include

those instances when it is clear from the relevant patterns (allowing for experimental error) that essentially the same crystalline form has been formed. When provided, XRPD distance values may vary in the range ± 2 on the last given decimal place. It will be appreciated by the skilled person that XRPD intensities may vary when measured for essentially the same crystalline form for a variety of reasons including, for example, preferred orientation.

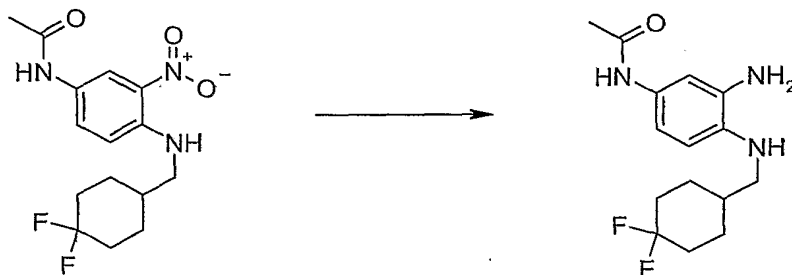
Preparation of *N*-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide

Step A:

***N*-(4-[[[(4,4-Difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]amino]-3-nitrophenyl]acetamide**



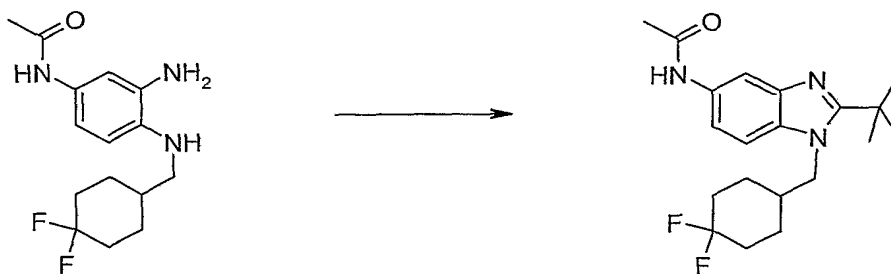
- N*-(4-Fluoro-3-nitrophenyl)acetamide (1.15 g, 5.84 mmol) and [(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]amine hydrochloride (1.30g, 7.59 mmol) were stirred in 30 mL of EtOH containing TEA (2.40 mL, 17.5 mmol) at 80°C for 48h. The solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc and washed with aqueous 5% KHSO₄ solution, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution, saturated aqueous NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The product was crystallized from EtOAc. The left over mother liquor was purified by silica gel flash chromatography using 2:1 / hexanes:acetone as eluent. Yield: 1.50 g (78%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 1.33 - 1.47 (m, 2 H), 1.66 - 1.77 (m, 2 H), 1.77 - 1.86 (m, 1 H), 1.89 - 1.93 (m, 1 H), 1.93 - 1.97 (m, 1 H), 2.10 - 2.17 (m, 2 H), 2.18 (s, 3 H), 3.23 (dd, *J*=6.74, 5.76 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, *J*=9.37 Hz, 1 H), 7.15 (s, 1 H), 7.80 (dd, *J*=9.18, 2.54 Hz, 1 H), 8.09 (d, *J*=2.54 Hz, 2 H).

Step B:***N*-(3-Amino-4-{[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]amino}phenyl) acetamide**

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N-(4-{[(4,4-Difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]amino}-3-nitrophenyl)acetamide (1.48 g, 4.52 mmol) was dissolved in 50 mL of EtOAc containing a catalytic amount of 10% Pd/C. The solution was shaken in a Parr hydrogenation apparatus under H₂ atmosphere (45 psi) at rt for 24h. The solution was filtered through Celite and the solvent was evaporated. Yield: 1.32 g (98%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 1.31 - 1.43 (m, 2 H), 1.64 - 1.73 (m, 2 H), 1.74 - 1.82 (m, 1 H), 1.89 - 1.93 (m, 1 H), 1.93 - 1.96 (m, 1 H), 2.08 - 2.17 (m, 5 H), 3.00 (d, *J*=6.64 Hz, 2 H), 3.27 - 3.46 (m, 2 H), 6.55 (d, *J*=8.40 Hz, 1 H), 6.70 (dd, *J*=8.40, 2.34 Hz, 1 H), 7.01 (s, 1 H), 7.13 (d, *J*=2.34 Hz, 1 H).

15

Step C:***N*-(2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl)acetamide**

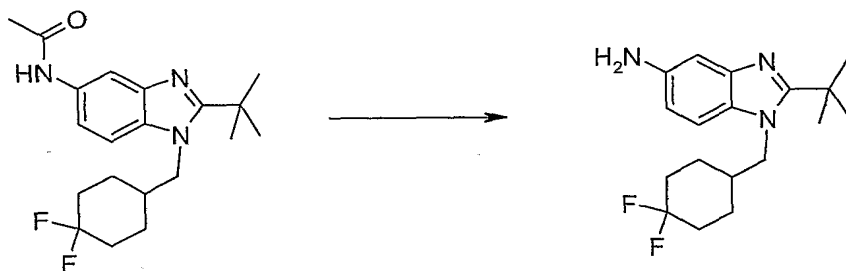
20

N-(3-Amino-4-{[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]amino}phenyl) acetamide (1.32 g, 4.44 mmol) was dissolved in 100 mL of DCM containing DMAP (108 mg, 0.89 mmol). Trimethylacetyl chloride (0.60 mL, 4.88 mmol) was added dropwise and the solution was

stirred at rt for 2h. The solution was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution, saturated aqueous NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Part of the product precipitated during the washings and was filtered. The organic phase was evaporated and combined with the precipitate. The product was dissolved in 30 mL of AcOH and placed in 6 sealed tubes (5 mL/tube). Each tube was heated at 150°C in a Personal Chemistry microwave instrument for 2.5h. The fractions were pooled and the solvent was evaporated. The product was dissolved in EtOAc and washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ solution, saturated aqueous NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography using 2:1 / acetone:hexanes as eluent. Yield: 1.11 g (68%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, METHANOL-D₄) δ 1.40 - 1.49 (m, 2 H), 1.52 (s, 9 H), 1.60 - 1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.67 - 1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.96 - 2.06 (m, 3 H), 2.11 (s, 3 H), 2.15 - 2.23 (m, 1 H), 4.28 (d, *J*=7.62 Hz, 2 H), 7.35 - 7.39 (m, 1 H), 7.40 - 7.44 (m, 1 H), 7.85 (d, *J*=1.76 Hz, 1 H).

Step D:

2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine

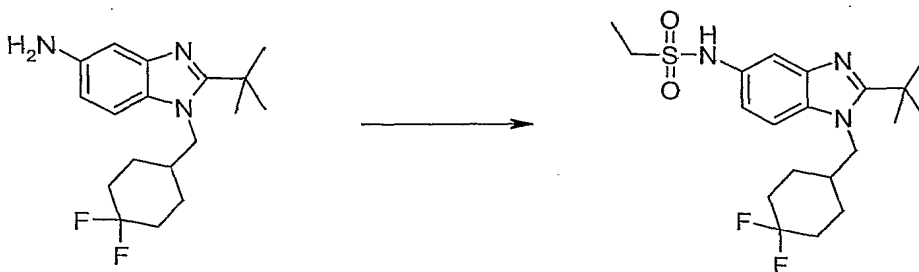


N-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}acetamide (500 mg, 1.37 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL of 1:1 / EtOH:2M HCl. The solution was divided into two sealed tubes (5 mL/tube). Each tube was heated at 120°C in a Personal Chemistry microwave instrument for 1h. The fractions were pooled and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was diluted with 2M NaOH and extracted (3X) with EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with saturated aqueous NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated. Yield: 440 mg (99%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 1.40 - 1.52 (m, 2 H), 1.52 - 1.54 (m, 9 H), 1.56 - 1.66 (m, 4 H), 1.68

- 1.75 (m, 2 H), 2.07 - 2.17 (m, 3 H), 4.14 (d, $J=7.62$ Hz, 2 H), 6.65 (dd, $J=8.50, 2.25$ Hz, 1 H), 7.04 - 7.09 (m, 2 H).

Step E:

5 ***N*-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide**



2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-amine (440 mg, 1.37 mmol) and DMAP (165 mg, 1.37 mmol) were dissolved in 50 mL of DCM. Ethanesulfonyl chloride (0.170 mL, 1.78 mmol) was added dropwise and the solution was stirred at rt for 2.5h. The solution was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution, saturated aqueous NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography using EtOAc as eluent. The fractions were concentrated and the residue was dissolved in 25 mL of MeOH. TFA (0.155 mL, 2.06 mmol) was added dropwise and the solution was stirred at rt for 30 min. The solvent was evaporated and the product was precipitated in ether affording the title compound as its corresponding TFA salt. Yield: 565 mg (78%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, METHANOL-D₄) δ 1.29 (t, $J=7.42$ Hz, 3 H), 1.48 - 1.60 (m, 2 H), 1.64 (s, 9 H), 1.66 - 1.72 (m, 2 H), 1.73 - 1.82 (m, 2 H), 1.99 - 2.09 (m, 2 H), 2.18 - 2.28 (m, 1 H), 3.11 (m, 2 H), 4.50 (d, $J=7.62$ Hz, 2 H), 7.38 (dd, $J=9.08, 2.05$ Hz, 1 H), 7.72 (d, $J=2.15$ Hz, 1 H), 7.85 (d, $J=8.98$ Hz, 1 H); MS (ESI) (M+H)⁺ 414.0.

25 **Preparation of ethane sulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide**

Example 1

N-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (131 mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (1.3 ml) and ethane sul-
phonic acid (27 µl, 95%) was added. The mixture was heated to 55 °C to dissolve every-
thing. Then, the solution was cooled down to room temperature and left to crystallise over
night. The resulting slurry was filtered off and washed with ethyl acetate (0.5 ml) and dried
shortly. The resulting product (150mg) was crystalline *N*-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluoro-
cyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide esylate corresponding to a
yield of approximately 94%.

Example 2

N-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfon-
amide (240 mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (2.4 ml) and ethane sulphonic acid (25 µl,
95%) was added. The mixture was heated to 50 °C and after a few minutes it started to
crystallise. Then a second portion of ethane sulphonic acid (25 µl, 95%) was added. The
resulting slurry was cooled down to room temperature and left over night before it was
filtered off and washed with ethyl acetate (1 ml) and dried under vacuum at 40 °C. The
resulting product (280 mg) was crystalline *N*-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclo-
hexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide esylate.

Example 3

N-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfon-
amide (1.82g) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (18.2 ml) at 40 °C. To the clear solution, a
first portion of ethane sulphonic acid (100 µl, 95%) was added. Crystallisation started im-
mediately. After 20 minutes a second portion of acid was added (100 µl, 95%). The crystal-
lisation was left for 30 minutes before a third portion of ethane sulphonic acid (178
µl, 95%) was added. The resulting slurry was left over night. Then, the product was filtered
off, washed three times with ethyl acetate (3x2ml) and dried under vacuum at 40 °C yield-
ing 2.3g crystalline salt.

Example 4

N-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (101mg) was dissolved in *iso*-propylacetate (1.5ml) at 42 °C and ethane sulphonic acid (20µl, 95%) was added. Crystallisation started immediately. The slurry was left for three days before it was filtered off and washed with *iso*-propylacetate (3x200 µl). The product was dried at 40 °C under vacuum to yield 61 mg crystalline *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide esylate salt.

Example 5

N-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (111mg) was slurried in methyl *tert*-butyl ether (2.1 ml) at 48 °C and ethane sulphonic acid (23 µl, 95%) was added. Shortly after the slurry became thinner and then recrystallised into a thicker slurry which was left over night at room temperature. The resulting crystals were filtered off, washed with methyl *tert*-butyl ether (2x 400 µl) and dried at 40 °C under vacuum. A total of 105 mg (yield 75%) crystalline *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide esylate was obtained.

Example 6

N-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (210mg) was dissolved in methyl *iso*-butyl ketone (2.1ml). A solution was made of ethanesulphonic acid (43.7 µl) and methyl *iso*-butyl ketone (1.0 ml). The methyl *iso*-butyl ketone/ethane sulphonic acid solution was added in a controlled manner over three hours. Thus, initially, to the base solution was added 2x20 µl acid solution. Then after 30 minutes three more additions were made (3x20 µl). Approximately 20 minutes later three additions of 40 µl acid solution was made and after 40 minutes 400 µl was added. Finally, 20 minutes later the remaining amount of acid solution was added. The resulting slurry was left 2.5 days with stirring before it was filtered off and washed with methyl *iso*-butyl ketone (2x200 µl). The product was dried at 40°C under vacuum yielding 227 mg crystalline *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide esylate salt. (yield 85%)

Example 7

N-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (193mg) was dissolved in *iso*-propyl acetate (3 ml) at 40 °C. To the resulting clear solution ethane sulphonic acid (10 µl). was added. Crystallisation started immediately. After 50 minutes a second portion of acid was added (10 µl). Finally, after 10 minutes more a third portion of acid was added (10 µl). The slurry was left 2.5 days with stirring before it was filtered off and washed with *iso*-propylacetate (2x200µl). The crystals were dried at 40 °C under vacuum. A total of 213 mg esylate salt was obtained which corresponds to a yield of approximately 87%.

The following NMR data were obtained from the ethane sulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide of Example 2.

¹HNMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 14.1 (1H, br), 10.2 (1H, br, s), 8.0 (1H, d), 7.7 (1H, split s), 7.4 (1H, split d), 4.5 (2H, d), 3.1 (2H, q), 2.4 (2H, q), 2.2 (1H, br t), 2.0 (2H, br t), 1.7 (4H, m), 1.6 (9H, s), 1.5 (2H, m), 1.2 (3H, t), 1.1 (3H, t)

The crystals of Example 3 were analyzed by XRPD and the results are tabulated below (Table 1) and are shown in Figure 1.

Table 1

d-value (Å)	Relative intensity	d-value (Å)	Relative intensity	d-value (Å)	Relative intensity
14.0	vs	4.77	m	3.44	m
9.6	vw	4.62	vs	3.40	m
9.2	m	4.41	s	3.31	vw
8.4	vw	4.33	m	3.28	m
7.8	s	4.24	s	3.10	m
7.7	s	4.18	m	3.05	m

d-value (Å)	Relative intensity	d-value (Å)	Relative intensity	d-value (Å)	Relative intensity
7.0	s	4.08	m	3.02	m
6.8	m	4.03	m	2.92	w
6.7	s	3.97	w	2.87	w
5.9	w	3.88	m	2.87	w
5.4	m	3.83	m	2.80	w
5.4	w	3.79	m	2.73	w
5.1	w	3.66	m	2.71	w
5.1	m	3.59	vw	2.68	vw
4.99	vs	3.50	w		

The relative intensities are less reliable and instead of numerical values, the following definitions are used:

5	% relative Intensity*:	Definition:
	>80	vs (very strong)
	37-80	s (strong)
	9-37	m (medium)
	5-9	w (weak)
10	<5	vw (very weak)

* the relative intensities are derived from the diffractograms measured with variable slits.

Preparation of sulphuric acid salt of

15 *N*-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide

Example 8

20 *N*-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (132mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (1.2 ml) at 45 °C. To the solution concen-

trated sulphuric acid was added (17 µl). Crystallisation started immediately. The temperature was increased shortly to 55 °C then cooled down to 20°C and left over night. The crystals were filtered off, washed with ethyl acetate (1.0 ml), yielding 147 mg sulphate salt.

5 **Example 9**

N-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (139 mg) was dissolved in ethylacetat (2 ml) at room temperature. To the solution concentrated sulphuric acid was added (18µl). The resulting slurry was evaporated to dryness and slurried in a mixture of ethanol (1.05 ml) and ethyl acetate (1.35ml). The crystals
10 were filtered off and dried, yielding 87 mg sulphate salt.

Example 10

N-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (177mg) was dissolved in methyl *iso*-butyl ketone (1.8 ml). To the solution water
15 (77 µl) and concentrated sulphuric acid (24 µl) was added. Initially, some oil formation was observed. After seeding, crystallisation started. The slurry was left over night. Then the crystals were filtered off, washed with methyl *iso*-butyl ketone (0.5 ml) and dried at 40 °C under vacuum. A total of 182 mg crystalline sulphate salt was isolated.

20 **Example 11**

N-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (104mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (1.5 ml). To the solution water (40 µl) and concentrated sulphuric acid (13 µl) was added. Initially, some oil formation was observed. The solution was heated to 50 °C to initiate crystallisation. After 1 hour it was cooled
25 down to room temperature. The slurry was left over night. Then the crystals were filtered off, washed with ethyl acetate (1 ml) and dried at 40 °C under vacuum. A total of 110 mg crystalline sulphate salt was isolated.

The following NMR data were obtained from the sulphuric acid salt of *N*-{2-tert-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide of Example
30 11:

¹HNMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 14.1 (1H, br s), 10.2 (1H, s), 8.0 (1H, d), 7.7 (1H, d), 7.4 (1H, dd), 4.5 (2H, d), 3.1 (2H, q), 2.2 (1H, m), 2.0 (2H, m), 1.7-1.8 (4H, m), 1.6 (9H, s), 1.5 (2H, m), 1.2 (3H, t)

- 5 The crystals of Example 11 were analyzed by XRPD and the results are tabulated below (Table 2) and are shown in Figure 2.

Table 2

d-value (Å)	Relative intensity	d-value (Å)	Relative intensity	d-value (Å)	Relative intensity
14.3	w	5.6	s	3.76	m
11.7	s	5.4	s	3.69	w
11.3	s	4.93	m	3.39	w
10.7	w	4.84	m	3.34	w
10.3	m	4.78	m	3.28	w
8.5	m	4.61	m	3.21	w
8.2	w	4.55	m	3.17	w
7.2	m	4.35	m	3.10	w
6.9	m	4.15	m	3.00	w
5.8	s	4.09	w	2.92	w
5.6	s	3.89	m	2.89	w

- 10 The relative intensities are less reliable and instead of numerical values, the following definitions are used:

% relative Intensity*:

Definition:

>60

s (strong)

15 17-60

m (medium)

5-17

w (weak)

<5

vw (very weak)

* the relative intensities are derived from the diffractograms measured with variable slits.

Preparation of ethane disulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide

Example 12

N-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (21 mg) and 1,2-ethandisulphonic acid (13mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (200 μ l) at 40 °C. After a few minutes crystallisation of the salt started. The slurry was cooled down and left at room temperature. The slurry was used as seeds in the following experiment.

Example 13

N-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (108mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (1 ml). Then, 1,2-ethane disulphonic acid was added (49.5mg). Crystallisation started immediately. The solution was seeded with a small amount of slurry from Example 11. Then, ethyl acetate was added (0.4 ml) and the slurry was left over night. The crystals were filtered off, washed with ethyl acetate (0.4 ml) and dried at 40 °C under vacuum. A total of 123 mg crystalline material was obtained.

The crystals of Example 13 were analyzed by XRPD and the results are shown in Figure 3.

Preparation of maleic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide

Example 14

N-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide (263 mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (2.5ml) and water (60 μ l). To the clear solution maleic acid was added (74.5mg). The crystallisation started immediately and a thick slurry was obtained. The slurry was left over night before it was filtered off, washed with

ethyl acetate (2x1ml) and dried at 40 °C under vacuum. A total of 276 mg crystalline material was obtained.

The crystals of Example 14 were analyzed by XRPD and the results are shown in Figure 4.

5

Abbreviations

	br	=	broad (in relation to NMR)
	d	=	doublet (in relation to NMR)
	DCM	=	dichloromethane
10	DMSO	=	dimethylsulfoxide
	dd	=	doublet of doublets (in relation to NMR)
	Et	=	ethyl
	h	=	hour(s)
	HCl	=	hydrochloric acid
15	m	=	multiplet (in relation to NMR)
	Me	=	methyl
	min.	=	minute(s)
	MS	=	mass spectroscopy
	Pd/C	=	palladium on carbon
20	q	=	quartet (in relation to NMR)
	rt	=	room temperature
	s	=	singlet (in relation to NMR)
	t	=	triplet (in relation to NMR)
	UV	=	ultraviolet

25

Prefixes *n*-, *s*-, *i*-, *t*- and *tert*- have their usual meanings: normal, secondary, *iso*, and tertiary.

CLAIMS

1. A salt of the compound *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide, which is an ethanesulphonic acid salt, a sulphuric acid salt, an ethane disulphonic acid salt, a hydrochloric acid salt, a hydrobromic acid salt, a phosphoric acid salt, an acetic acid salt, a fumaric acid salt, a maleic acid salt, a tartaric acid salt, a citric acid salt, a methanesulphonic acid salt, or a p-toluenesulphonic acid salt of said compound.
2. A salt as claimed in claim 1 which is an ethane sulphonic acid salt, a sulphuric acid salt, or an ethane disulphonic acid salt of said compound.
3. A salt as claimed in claim 1 which is an ethane sulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at d-values at 14.0, 7.0, 4.99, and 4.62 Å, and/or essentially as defined in Table 1 and/or essentially as defined in Figure 1.
4. A salt as claimed in claim 1 which is a sulphuric acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern with specific peaks at d-values at 11.7, 11.3, 5.8, 5.6, 5.6, and 5.4 Å, and/or essentially as defined in Table 2 and/or essentially as defined in Figure 2.
5. A salt as claimed in claim 1 which is an ethane disulphonic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern essentially as defined in Figure 3.
6. A salt as claimed in claim 1 which is a maleic acid salt of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern essentially as defined in Figure 4.
7. A salt as claimed in claim 1 in substantially crystalline form.
8. A salt as claimed in claim 1 in partially crystalline form.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a salt as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.
- 5 10. A process for the preparation of a salt as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8, which process comprises addition of the appropriate acid to a solution or slurry of *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide.
- 10 11. A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the appropriate acid is added to *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide dissolved in a solvent selected from the group: acetates, lower alkyl alcohols, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, dialkyl ethers, dialkyl ketones, acetonitrile, chlorinated alkanes, aqueous solvents, or mixtures thereof.
- 15 12. A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the solvent is selected from the group: C₁₋₆ alkyl acetates, linear or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl alcohols, C₆₋₁₂ aliphatic hydrocarbons, C₆₋₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbons, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl ethers, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl ketones, chlorinated methanes or ethanes, acetonitrile, water, or mixtures thereof.
- 20 13. A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the solvent is selected from the group: ethyl acetate, *iso*-propyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, *iso*-propanol, *n*-heptane, diethyl ether, acetone, dichloromethane, water, or mixtures thereof.
- 25 14. A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the solvent is selected from the group: ethyl acetate, methyl *iso*-butyl ketone, and *iso*-propyl acetate.
- 30 15. A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the appropriate acid is added to *N*-{2-*tert*-butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanesulfonamide slurried in a liquid selected from the group: acetates, lower alkyl alcohols, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, dialkyl ethers, dialkyl ketones, acetonitrile, chlorinated alkanes, aqueous liquids, or mixtures thereof.

16. A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the liquid is selected from the group: C₁₋₆ alkyl acetates, linear or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl alcohols, C₆₋₁₂ aliphatic hydrocarbons, C₆₋₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbons, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl ethers, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl ketones, chlorinated methanes or ethanes, acetonitrile, water, or mixtures thereof.

5

17. A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the liquid is selected from the group: ethyl acetate, *iso*-propyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, *iso*-propanol, *n*-heptane, diethyl ether, acetone, dichloromethane, water, or mixtures thereof.

10

18. A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the liquid is methyl *tert*-butyl ether.

19. A salt according to any one of claims 1-8 for use as a medicament.

15

20. The use of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain.

21. The use of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of anxiety disorders.

20

22. The use of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, gastrointestinal disorders and cardiovascular disorders.

25

23. Use of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

24. Use of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of functional gastrointestinal disorder (FGD).

30

25. Use of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of functional dyspepsia (FD).

26. Use of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

27. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of
5 administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8.

28. A method for the treatment of pain, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, is administered to a subject
10 in need of such treatment.

29. A method for the treatment of anxiety disorders, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

15 30. A method for the treatment of cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, gastrointestinal disorders or cardiovascular disorders, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8 is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

20 31. A method for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

25 32. A method for the treatment of functional gastrointestinal disorder, whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

30 33. A method for the treatment of functional dyspepsia whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

34. A method for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), whereby a pharmaceutically and pharmacologically effective amount of a salt according to any one of claims 1-8, is administered to a subject in need of such treatment.

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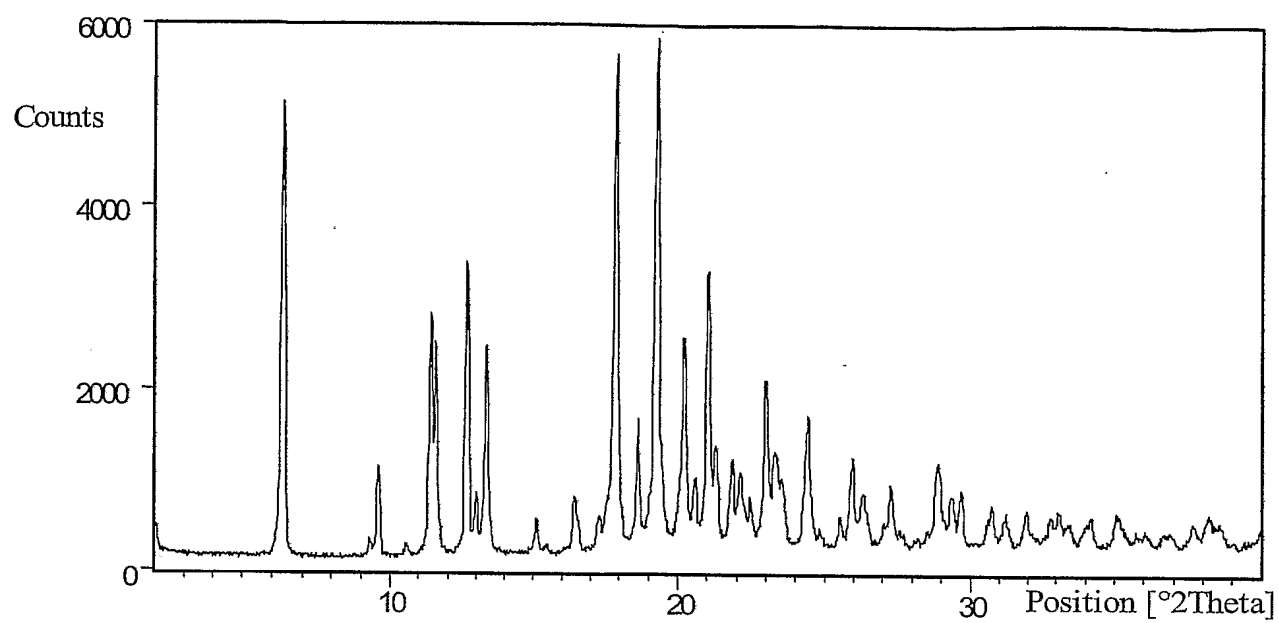


Figure 1

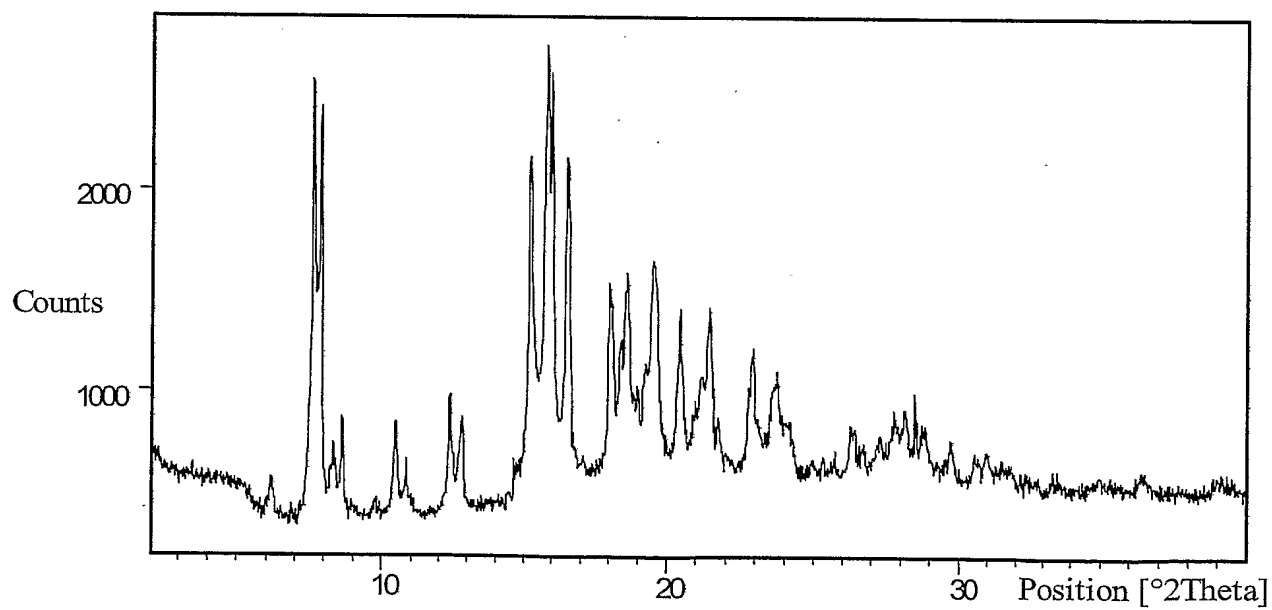


Figure 2

2/2

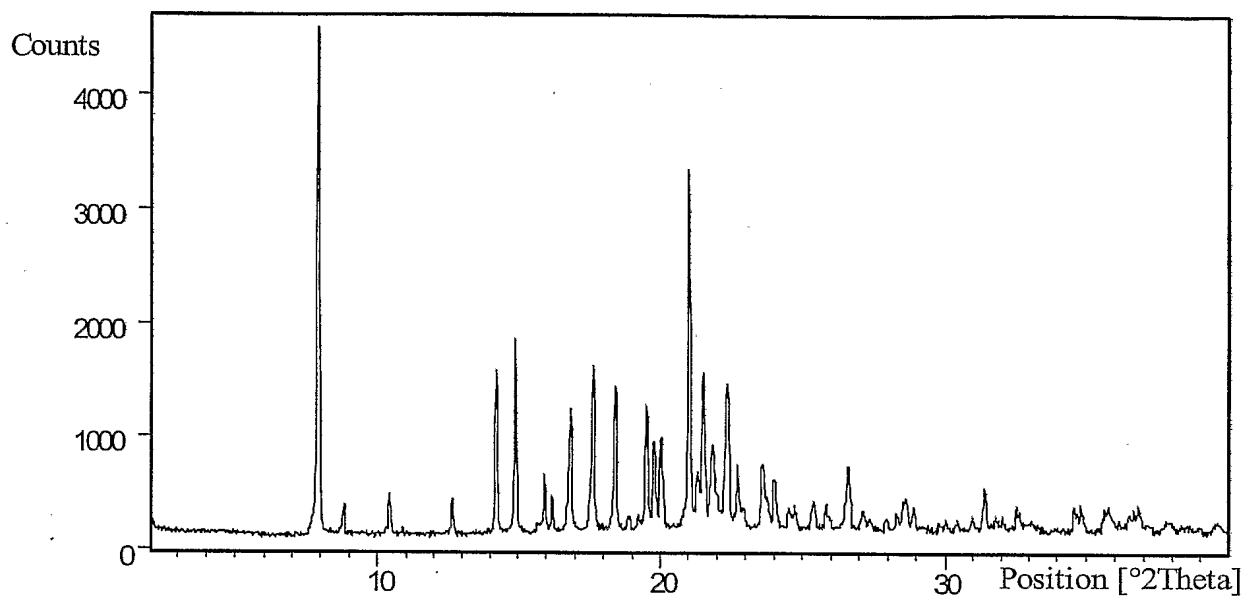


Figure 3

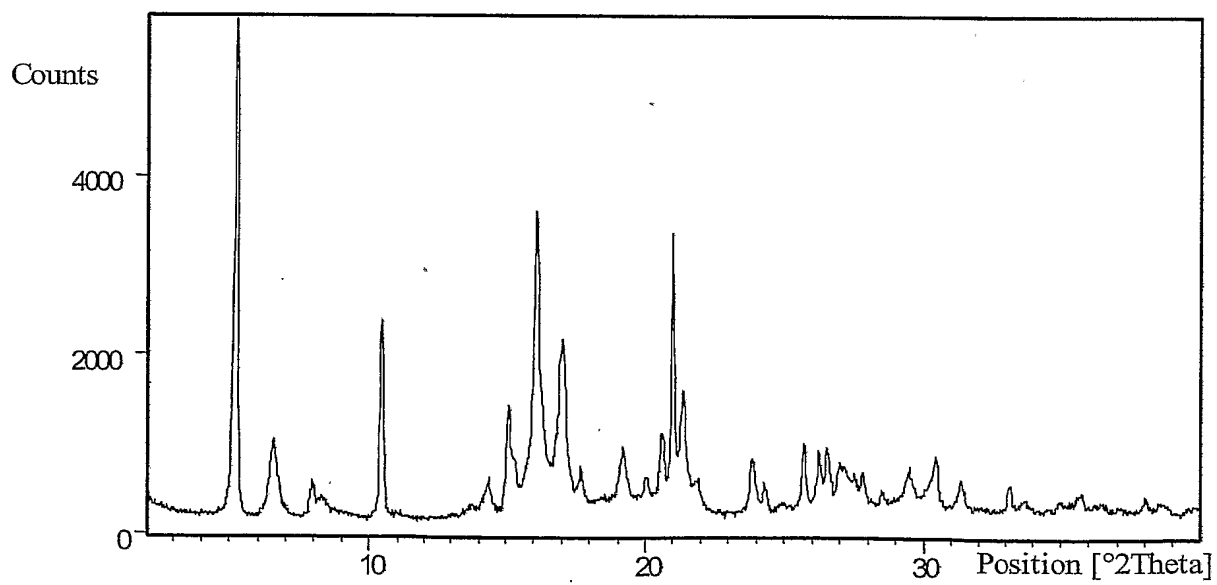


Figure 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE2007/000281

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: see extra sheet

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC: C07D, A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ, CHEM.ABS DATA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2005030732 A1 (ASTRAZENECA AB), 7 April 2005 (07.04.2005), page 13, line 10 - page 14, line 18; page 21 - page 24; page 45 - page 48, page 50, claims 1-4, 7-9, examples 1-12 --	1-34
A	WO 2005021547 A2 (PHARMAXIS PTY LTD.), 10 March 2005 (10.03.2005), page 25, line 31 - page 26, line 6 --	1-34
P,X	WO 2006033631 A1 (ASTRAZENECA AB), 30 March 2006 (30.03.2006) -- -----	1-34

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 July 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report

09-07-2007

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Authorized officer

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/SE2007/000281

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 27-34
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims 27-34 relate to a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy. Nevertheless, a search has been executed for these claims. The search has been based on the alleged effects of the compounds.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International patent classification (IPC)

C07D 235/08 (2006.01)
A61K 31/4184 (2006.01)
A61P 1/00 (2006.01)
A61P 25/00 (2006.01)
A61P 25/16 (2006.01)
A61P 25/22 (2006.01)
A61P 25/28 (2006.01)
A61P 35/00 (2006.01)
A61P 9/00 (2006.01)

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Use the application number as username.

The password is **PUHEMQYCDL**.

Paper copies can be ordered at a cost of 50 SEK per copy from PRV InterPat (telephone number 08-782 28 85).

Cited literature, if any, will be enclosed in paper form.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

28/05/2007

International application No.

PCT/SE2007/000281

WO	2005030732	A1	07/04/2005	AU	2004276062	A	07/04/2005
				BR	PI0414780	A	21/11/2006
				CA	2539738	A	07/04/2005
				CN	1886379	A	27/12/2006
				EP	1670769	A	21/06/2006
				JP	2007506721	T	22/03/2007
				KR	20070001052	A	03/01/2007
				MX	PA06003197	A	23/06/2006
				NO	20061839	A	26/06/2006
				SE	0302573	D	00/00/0000

WO	2005021547	A2	10/03/2005	NONE			
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WO	2006033631	A1	20/03/2006	AR	053096	A	25/04/2007
				AU	2004276062	A	07/04/2005
				AU	2005287426	A	30/03/2006
				AU	2005287427	A	30/03/2006
				AU	2005287429	A	30/03/2006
				BR	PI0414780	A	21/11/2006
				CA	2539738	A	07/04/2005
				EP	1670769	A	21/06/2006
				IS	8422	A	21/04/2006
				JP	2007506721	T	22/03/2007
				MX	PA06003197	A	23/06/2006
				NO	20061839	A	26/06/2006
				US	20060264490	A	23/11/2006
				WO	2006033630	A	30/03/2006
				WO	2006033633	A	30/03/2006
				AR	050956	A	06/12/2006
